Mr. Speaker, the United Nations

has identified the situation in Darfur,

Sudan, as the worst current humanitarian and

human rights statement of crisis in the world.

And, the United States has labeled the killings

in Darfur as genocide.

History is littered with examples of the international

community recognizing the existence

of genocide, while at the same time failing to

put an end to the murder, rape and dislocation

of innocent men, women and children.

Sadly, the case of Sudan is yet another

sorry demonstration of the international community’s

collective lack of will to confront those

would commit such horrific acts of cowardice.

The nations of the world must stop turning

a blind eye to the suffering of innocents.

I am pleased that we are considering legislation

to provide further assistance to the African

Union Mission in Sudan, and to strengthen

the arms embargo against the Janjaweed

militia.

But we must not delude ourselves: the resolution

before us today will not by itself solve

the crisis or put an end to the suffering in

Sudan.

As recognized in this legislation, the mission

of the African Union peacekeepers must be

expanded to allow them to intervene when

acts of violence are being committed against

innocent Sudanese.

How can we not have learned the lessons

of Bosnia, Kosovo and Rwanda, where we

watched in horror as troops in blue helmets

stood by and witnessed the rape, murder and

displacement of thousands?

The humanitarian crisis currently taking

place in Sudan is among the most grave the

world has seen in the past decade, and at its

heart is the genocidal campaign being waged

by the Khartoum government.

The most important, immediate step the

world can take to stem the violence is to empower

the forces already in place to actually

protect the people of Darfur.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

And, I urge the U.S. Representatives at

the United Nations to carry out their mission

as directed in this bill to provide to African

Union peacekeepers the authority to stop this

genocide.